

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

- From the President
- January Program
- RTTY Contesting
- Budget Proposal
- Officers and Directors Meeting
- January Birthday
- DX Contests

## How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Happy New Year fellow DX'ers. Hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and had at least a little time to play radio between parties. I tried to spend a few moments each day listening to CW in the continuing quest at CW proficiency. Then I listened to Straight Key Night. While most were still sending at speeds beyond my comfort zone, it was indeed enlightening to hear fists clearly worse than mine.

Are your stations in order for the upcoming flurry of DXpeditions? In January and February we'll see the long-planned activations of five of the top 20 countries on Club Log's Most Wanted List. You'll find more details in the February issue of QST, page 95.

Your officers and directors just concluded a meeting to map out the coming year, generating ideas for new & interesting programs, setting a tentative picnic date, and setting up a FY16 budget among the topics. You'll find more details about those in the meeting minutes.

One of the things we'd like to do is increase our DXpedition funding but at the same time be prudent in presenting to you a nearly balanced budget. With that said, our intent is to fund DXpeditions at the budgeted level (currently at \$400) early in the fiscal year, then re-visit the topic after the Hamfest Banquet – clearly our

biggest annual budget item. We'll have hard copies of this proposed budget at the next meeting for discussion and ratification.

As always, we solicit your input and ideas for program topics or something you'd like to see from the club. See you in the pile-ups, maybe even the CW ones too.

73,

Mark N4BCD

## Baluns

Program by Bob DePierre, K8KI

In order to get a balun to reliably perform tasks of single-ended-to-balanced and possibly impedance transformation, more than just turns ratio needs to be taken into account. Bob will tell us about appropriate materials, voltage vs. current baluns, and other things that might not jump off the textbook page. Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 pm for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Rob's program. See you there!



## RTTY Contesting is Hard on Equipment

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

The first weekend of 2016 saw several club members engaged in the ARRL RTTY Roundup. Ask any experienced contestator and you'll hear war stories of how the duty cycle of the RTTY mode taxes the capabilities of equipment when run at high power for long periods of time.

I'm still sorting out the root cause of smoke coming out of my tuner on Saturday night while running stations on 80m. Fortunately there were no flames and nothing was permanently damaged, but clearly something needs to change.

Below: A DX Engineering Tuner Balun rated for 10KW showing elevated temperatures at N4BCD

Top Right : The roller inductor of a legal limit tuner had cooled and was no longer smoking when this thermal image was taken at N4BCD



### NADXC Officers and Directors

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| President      | Mark Brown, N4BCD        |
| Vice President | Jim Spikes, N4KH         |
| Secretary/     | Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ |
| Treasurer      |                          |
| At-large       | Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI      |
| directors      | Tom Duncan, KG4CUY       |



Warren KJ4RAQ shared this photo of his 30L-1 amp during the contest. [Those four 811-As put out about 80k BTU/hr—Ed.]

## Proposed 2016 Budget

NADXC Officers and Directors

The following budget for 2016 is proposed by the NADXC board. It is essentially balanced. The considerable opening bank balance of \$ 4343 provides protection against unexpected expenditures (e.g., should we have extraordinary repeater problems), allows for contributions to DXpeditions deemed by the membership to be worthy, while

maintaining a cash position of \$ 4162 at the end of the year.

Discussion of the budget and a vote will be held at Tuesday's meeting.

| Item | Description   | Income      | Expense     | Bank Balance |
|------|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1    | Current Bank Account Balance 1/1/16   |             |             | \$ 4,343.13  |
| 2    | Dues receipts (est. 45 members @ \$15 each)                                   | \$ 675.00   |             | \$ 5,018.13  |
| 3    | Repeater Power Bill   |             | \$ 160.00   | \$ 4,858.13  |
| 4    | Repeater maintenance  |             | \$ 100.00   | \$ 4,758.13  |
| 5    | Annual Web Hosting & Domain Service   |             | \$ 72.25    | \$ 4,685.88  |
| 6    | DX Expedition Sponsorship   |             | \$ 400.00   | \$ 4,285.88  |
| 7    | Young Ham of the Year Plaque  |             | \$ 46.86    | \$ 4,239.02  |
| 8    | Annual DX Club Banquet Receipts (est. 80 tickets)                             | \$ 3,005.00 |             | \$ 7,244.02  |
| 9    | Annual DX Club Banquet Expenses - room & meal                                 |             | \$ 2,300.00 | \$ 4,944.02  |
| 10   | Hamfest Banquet Door Prizes   |             | \$ 300.00   | \$ 4,644.02  |
| 11   | DX Banquet Speaker Expenses   |             | \$ 150.00   | \$ 4,494.02  |
| 12   | Matching of member contributions to ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund                |             | \$ 100.00   | \$ 4,394.02  |
| 13   | Annual Club Picnic (\$75 shelter rental at Monte Sano + \$10 picnic supplies) |             | \$ 85.00    | \$ 4,309.02  |
| 14   | Plaque, Dxer of the year  |             | \$ 46.86    | \$ 4,262.16  |
| 15   | Quarterly Door Prize  |             | \$ 100.00   | \$ 4,162.16  |
|      | Summary   | \$ 3,680.00 | \$ 3,860.97 |              |
|      | Net Difference in Bank Balance  |             |             | \$ (180.97)  |

### Notes:

Item 3, Repeater power bill was not paid last year and is doubled-up in 2016

Item 12, NADXC proposes to match any club member's contribution to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund up to a \$100 limit.

Item 15, The club proposes a nominal \$25 door prize to be awarded at the end of each quarter.



## Officers and Directors Meeting

By Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Officers & Directors Meeting – 5 PM,  
January 8, 2016, Newk's on University  
Dr.

Attended by:

Mark Brown N4BCD – President

Jim Spikes N4KH – Vice President

Kelley Vann Johns W4VPZ – Secretary /  
Treasurer

Tom Duncan KG4CUY – Director

(not present: Kevin Hibbs KG4TEI –  
Director)

A draft a 2016 operating budget was  
proposed and agreed upon. It will be  
published in the Longpath for this  
month for the members to review.  
[See p. 3]

The Banquet location (the Port of  
Madison) for the past 2 years has  
worked well for our group; the menu  
selections, costs, and amenities are  
quite good. We decided to hold the  
2016 Hamfest weekend banquet at  
the same location.

Several suggestions for potential  
Banquet speakers were discussed, and  
more work on this will be done in the  
coming months.

We discussed our annual picnic date  
and location. For reference the follow-  
ing data was reviewed:

2014-October 12, a Sunday, heavy  
downpour.

2015-September 12, a Saturday, WX  
was perfect.

For 2016: Saturday, Sept 10 at the  
Monte Sano State Park pavilion.  
(subject to availability)

Some brainstorming on program ide-  
as for the coming year took place with  
further work to continue as the year  
progresses.

## January Birthday—André-Marie Ampère

Ampère was born on January 20,  
1775 into a great age of French contri-  
bution to mathematics and the scienc-  
es in general, just preceding the revolu-  
tion. He was largely self-taught as a  
youth, based on Rousseau's theories of  
education. His first real job, shortly  
after his marriage in 1799, was as a  
mathematics teacher, and indeed his  
earliest notable contribution to the sci-  
ences was a treatise on game theory.

Aware of Hans Christian Ørsted's  
experiments showing that a ferrous  
needle could be deflected when in  
proximity to wires carrying a direct cur-  
rent, Ampère began his own series of  
experiments and showed that not only  
was a force exerted on the ferrous nee-  
dle, but indeed, a force between two  
parallel current-carrying wires: this  
eventually became known as *Ampère's  
Law*. He related these findings to  
those of his contemporary compatriot

Charles-Augustin de Coulomb (having  
his own eponymous *Law*), showing a  
parallel between electricity and mag-  
netism. Both French *Laws* were im-  
portant to Maxwell's formulation dec-  
ades later.

The units of current (A), charge (C),  
resistance ( $\Omega$ ), power (W), and electro-  
motive force (V) were all named in  
1881 at the First International Con-  
gress of Electricians held at the Inter-  
national Exhibition of Electricity in Par-  
is, 45 years after his death, to Ampère  
and his contemporaries Charles-  
Augustin de Coulomb (F), Georg Ohm  
(DL), James Watt (GM), and Alessandro  
Volta (I).



Not just another pretty face: André-Marie  
Ampère, 1775-1836.

## DX Contests for January

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### DARC 10 Meter Contest, (CW/SSB), 10 meters

Jan 10, 0900Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial No., DOK code

See page 86, Jan QST and

[www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest](http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest)

### LZ Open Championship, (CW), 80 & 40 meters

Jan 15, 1800Z to 0400Z

Exchange: S.N. + last S.N. rcvd (6 digits total)

See page 86, Jan QST and

[www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest](http://www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest)

### HA DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 160-10 meters

Jan 16, 1200Z to Jan 17, 1200Z

Exchange: RST + S.N.

See page 86, Jan QST and [www.ha-dx.com](http://www.ha-dx.com)

### CQWW 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Jan 29, 2200Z to Jan 31, 2200Z

Exchange: RST plus State/Province/DXCC entity

See page 86, Jan. QST and

[www.CQ160.com](http://www.CQ160.com)

### REF French Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Jan 30, 0600Z to Jan 31, 1800Z

Exchange: RST plus serial no. ( F stns. give Dept. ID)

See page 83, Jan. QST and

[www.concours.r.e.f.org/contest/](http://www.concours.r.e.f.org/contest/)

### BARTG RTTY Sprint, (DIG), 80 -10 meters

Jan 23. 1200Z to Jan 24 1200Z

Exchange: Serial no.

See: page 86 Jan. QST & <http://s3.spanglefish.com>

### UBA (Belgium) Contest (SSB), 80-10 meters

Jan 30, 1300Z to Jan 31, 1300Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial no.; ON sends province

See page 86, Jan. QST and

[www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules](http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules)

### OTHERS:

#### WAB Top Band Phone Contest,

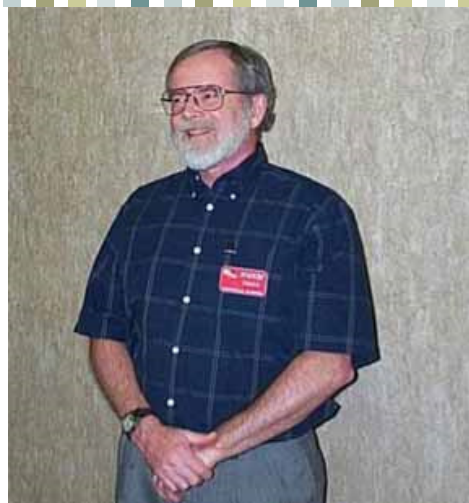
Jan. 23, 1900Z – 2300Z

#### CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest,

0000Z, Feb 13 to 2400Z, Feb 14

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM



## Farewell NADXC

from Gary Agranat, WA2JQZ

Hi Kelley,

I just would like to inform the North Alabama DX Club that I am moving to a new engineering job in Colorado. Therefore I don't plan to renew my membership.

I have been a member of the club for only this past year. I had been away from amateur radio for several decades, and so I am gradually getting back into the hobby now. Rob Suggs KB5EZ introduced me to the club. I

very much have enjoyed coming to club meetings and meeting with other members. I have benefited greatly from the collegueship in the club and from the monthly talks. You may remember me from operating the QRP LNR LD-5 on 40 and 20 meters at the club picnic on Monte Sano with my girlfriend Patti.

Best regards to everyone and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Gary Agranat, WA2JQZ

*[Indeed, Gary, we're glad for the time you were a member, and glad to have participate with you in some fun-in-the-field at our club picnic.—Ed.]*

### The LongPath Staff

#### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

#### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President